

Prejudging the bill, he had every assurance that his amendment would be adopted by the other branch. The Senate had passed the bill for the relief of Mr. Thompson, which the House had not. He was anxious to them to pass it, and he presumed the same feeling of confidence might be reposed in the House. Mr. MASON thought the cases were not parallel. The Senate could do business, the House could not.

The question was taken on the amendment, and it was agreed to: Ayes 18, noes 14.

MILITARY AND CIVIL SUPERINTENDENTS.
Mr. SHIELDS moved to strike out the proviso relating to the act of 24d August, 1842, as places the superintendence of the national armories under an officer of the Ordnance Corps.

On this motion a debate of some interest arose, in which Messrs. SHIELDS, DAVIS, MILLER, PEARCE, BORDLAND, TOUCY, BUTLER, BELL, MASON, CASS, PHELPS, SUMNER, and others participated, and various propositions were made.

The question was taken on the naked proposition of Mr. SHIELDS to strike out the proviso, and it was decided in the negative.

Numerous other amendments were offered by Mr. SHIELDS, and adopted; among them, one for the appropriation of five hundred thousand dollars for defense of San Francisco.

Mr. HUNTER was in favor of fortifications, but this bill was not the place for them.

Mr. GWIN defended the amendment with great zeal, showing the necessity that existed for the defense of San Francisco, a port that a single ship-of-war might place under contribution, out of which a hundred millions of gold was shipped annually.

The question was taken by yeas and nays, and decided in the affirmative, as follows:

YEAS—Messrs. Bayard, Bell, Borland, Brooks, Clarke, Cooper, Davis, Dawson, DeSaussure, Downs, Fout, Geyer, Gwin, Hamlin, Houston, Hunter, Jones of Tennessee, Mallory, Mason, Miller, Morton, Pearce, Phelps, Sebastian, Smith, Sprague, Underwood, and Walker—23.
NAYS—Messrs. Adams, Atchison, Bright, Brodhead, Chase, Dodge of Wisconsin, Dodge of Iowa, Fitzpatrick, Hale, Jones of Iowa, Pettit, Rusk, Sumner, and Wade—14.

Amendments were also adopted for fortifications in Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, and Massachusetts, and Maine, amounting to \$1,134,573.

Mr. GWIN moved to amend the bill by inserting an appropriation for a preliminary survey of a railroad to the Pacific; which, after considerable debate, was ruled out of order.

Mr. MALLORY moved to amend the bill by inserting a clause authorizing the President of the United States to accept the services of such troops of Florida as might be raised to enforce the remnant of the Seminole Indians to leave that State.

This amendment was debated to a late hour, when—
Mr. BUTLER asked the unanimous consent of the Senate to introduce a bill providing for administering the oath of office to WILLIAM R. KING, Vice President elect of the State of Georgia.

By the courtesy of the Chair, the bill was received. [No question having been taken on the amendment of Mr. MALLORY, it may be regarded as still pending.]
The bill was then read as follows:

Be it enacted, etc., That William L. Sharkey, who was appointed agent of the United States at Havana, be and he is hereby authorized to administer, at Havana, the oath of office to WILLIAM R. KING, Vice President elect of the State of Georgia, the oath of office prescribed by the sixth article of the Constitution thereof, on the fourth day of March next, or on some day subsequent thereto; and the officer before whom the same shall be taken is hereby required to certify the administration of the said oath, as is hereinbefore provided.

And by unanimous consent it was considered and passed.

REVENUE FROM POSTAL TREATY.
The PRESIDENT of the Senate laid before the body a communication from the Post Office Department, made in compliance with a resolution of the 17th instant, relative to the postage collected under the postal treaty with Great Britain.

On motion by Mr. RUSK, was referred to the Committee on the Post Office and Post Roads, and ordered to be printed.

The report gives the amount collected on account of the postal treaty from the date of the postal treaty.

Amount due each year on adjustment of the international account:

From January 1st to June 30, 1843.....\$25,611 22
From July 1st, 1843, to June 30, 1844.....147,063 88
From July 1st, 1844, to June 30, 1845.....88,417 88
From July 1st, 1845, to June 30, 1846.....101,988 50

Making an aggregate to 30th June, 1846.....\$348,081 51

In this amount an estimate of \$23,991.84 has been added to the quarter ending June 30, 1852, that account not having been adjusted.

Whole amount paid to British Government.....\$278,481 16
Premium on exchange.....6,610 08
Amount of commissions paid.....57,995 00

In the United States on the balance due to Great Britain, is estimated at.....57,995 00

Large as was the hour, the courtesy of the House was still further taxed, and the following was received:

On motion by Mr. UNDERWOOD,
Resolved, That the Senate be requested to communicate to the Senate, in its opinion, it be incompatible with the public interest, the correspondence between our Minister in Portugal and the Government of that country in relation to the late Gen. Antonio de Almeida, and the liability of the Portuguese Government to pay for the same.

The bill from the House for the relief of John Houghton was read and referred to the Committee of Claims.

Mr. BRIGHT introduced a bill to indemnify the State of Indiana for the failure of a title to a township of land granted to said State, her executor, or her heirs.

Mr. BORDLAND introduced a bill for the relief of Sally T. B. Cochrane, widow of Lieut. R. E. Cochrane, of the army; which was read and passed to a second reading.

On motion by Mr. LETCHER, the bill was referred to the message from the House disagreeing to the second and fourth amendments of the Senate to the bill for the support of the Military Academy; and the Senate having insisted on its amendment, a committee of conference was appointed by the Senate on the part of the Senate consisting of Messrs. PEARCE, BAYARD, and SUMNER.

And the Senate adjourned.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.
Mr. JONES, of Tennessee, from the joint committee appointed to wait upon the President elect and inform him of his election, reported—

That the committee had performed the duty assigned them; and that the President elect, in signifying his acceptance of the office which he had been chosen by the people, said: "You will please to communicate to the respective Houses of Congress my acceptance of the trust confided to me, and at the same time express to them my grateful acknowledgments, and assure them of the deep sense of obligation with which I regard this manifestation of confidence in me, and the assurance that I will be my earnest endeavor to prove that their confidence has not been misplaced."

RECIPROCAL TRADE.
The House then resumed the consideration of the bill establishing reciprocal trade with the British North American colonies upon certain conditions, heretofore reported from the Committee on Commerce.

Mr. TUCK concluded his remarks in reply to Mr. FLETCHER, of Maine, and in support of the bill, contending that the lumber interest was amply provided for by it.

Mr. CLINGMAN followed, and said that he was dissatisfied with the substitute of the gentleman from Maine (Mr. FLETCHER) for settling the fishery difficulties. If Great Britain would allow our people to fish where they subjects do, he would be willing to permit her subjects to fish in our markets upon the same footing as do our own citizens.

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And the Senate adjourned.

FRAUDS UPON THE TREASURY.

Mr. KING, of New York, from the committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendments of the Senate to the bill to prevent frauds upon the Treasury of the United States, submitted a report; which was adopted.

Mr. STUART moved that the House proceed to the consideration of business on the Speaker's table.

Mr. JONES, of Tennessee, moved that the House go into Committee of the Whole on the state of the Union; which motion was agreed to: Yeas 91, nays 84.

INDIAN APPROPRIATION BILL.

The House accordingly went into Committee of the Whole on the state of the Union, (Mr. BOOCOCK, of Virginia, in the chair), and resumed the consideration of the bill making appropriations for the current and contingent expenses of the Indian Department, and for fulfilling treaty stipulations with various Indian tribes, for the year ending June 30, 1854.

Mr. HOWARD resumed and concluded his remarks in opposition to the amendment of Mr. JONES, of Arkansas, proposing to pay to the Creek nation, at the rate of twenty cents per acre, for eight millions eight hundred and forty thousand acres of land, the sum of \$1,760,000, to be paid to the Indians per capita, and to be in full of all demands that the Creek nation may have against the Government of the United States.

Mr. JONES, of Arkansas, replied, and moved to add to his amendment a proviso that \$200,000 of the proposed appropriation shall be set apart and invested, under the direction of the President of the United States, in safe stock, the annual proceeds thereof to be applied to the purposes of education among the Creek tribe of Indians.

The amendment was rejected.

Mr. TOOMBS moved to amend the amendment by adding thereto a proviso that the sum of \$335,167.92 shall be set apart out of said compensation, and applied to the payment of damages committed by said Creek nation upon whites, as adjudicated and allowed by a commission appointed in 1837; which was agreed to.

The amendment was then rejected.

Other amendments were offered, principally from the Committee of Ways and Means and the Committee on Indian Affairs, and disposed of as follows:

Mr. FITCH moved an amendment appropriating \$60,246 for payment in full of the claim under that part of the treaty of 1831 which had relation to a grant of one hundred thousand acres of land in fee simple by the Ohio State to the Indians.

After debate, the amendment was agreed to: Ayes 65, noes 35.

Without disposing of the bill, the Committee rose.

Mr. CLARK asked consent to move to take up Senate bill regulating the terms of the district courts of the United States for the district of Iowa.

Mr. JONES, of Tennessee, objected, believing no quorum to be present.

Mr. CLARK moved a suspension of the rules.

Pending which the House adjourned.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 1853.

IN SENATE.
Mr. DAVIS, from the Committee on Commerce, reported a bill to amend an act entitled "An act to authorize the Secretary of the Treasury to license yachts, and for other purposes," so that said Secretary be authorized to grant registers as well as licenses.

Mr. DAVIS explained the object of the bill, and asked its immediate consideration; which was agreed to, and the bill was considered and passed.

Mr. HUNTER, from the Committee on Finance, reported House bill making appropriations for the service of the Post Office Department for the fiscal year ending the 30th June, 1854, with an amendment.

[This amendment consists of an additional section, providing that in all cases where the Postmaster General shall be satisfied that money or property stolen from the United States shall have been exchanged for other money or property, and upon the conviction of the thief, has been received at the Department, the Postmaster General shall have authority, upon satisfactory evidence that the same justly belong to any individual, firm, or corporation, to pay over such money or property to the owner thereof.]

Mr. SHIELDS, from the Committee on Military Affairs, asked to be discharged from the further consideration of all the subjects then before that committee; which was agreed to.

ARMY APPROPRIATION BILL.
This bill was then taken up. The amendment of Mr. MALLORY in relation to the troops of the State of Florida to remove the Florida Indians having been rejected.

Mr. CHASE moved to amend the bill by inserting the following, which he did by direction of the Committee on Rivers and Canals:

Sec. 2. And be it further enacted, That the Secretary of War be and he is hereby authorized, under the direction of the President of the United States, to employ such portion of the Corps of Topographical Engineers, and such other persons as he may deem necessary, to make explorations and surveys as may be deemed advisable to ascertain the most practicable and economical route for a railroad from the Mississippi river to the Pacific ocean; and that the sum of \$100,000, or so much thereof as may be necessary, be and it is hereby appropriated to defray the expense of such explorations and surveys.

Sec. 3. And be it further enacted, That the engineers and other persons employed to make such explorations and surveys be organized in as many distinct corps as there are routes to be surveyed, and their several reports shall be laid before Congress on or before the first Monday in February, 1854.

And be it further enacted, That in making such explorations and surveys, the engineers and other persons employed under the authority of this act may be directed to act in concert with any engineers employed by any individuals or associations for the same purpose, and that the Government is authorized and required to receive proposals from individuals or associations for the construction of the road between the valley of the Mississippi and the Pacific ocean, and to pay the same to the contractor.

Mr. CHASE explained the object of his amendment.

And after some remarks from Messrs. RUSK and CASS as to certain terms—

Mr. HUNTER could not agree to the amendment, as no money would be allowed for discovery by the other branch. He did not conceive it a fair course to be pursued by the House to bring in incongruous matters, that would have to be acted on by that body without debate, and thus jeopard the safety of the bill; and, besides, would bring all matters of legislation under appropriation bills.

On motion by Mr. LETCHER, the amendment on the ground that the amendment would make Congress an irresponsible despotism of the majority for carrying out favorite projects; and sooner than agree to it he would sacrifice the bill.

Mr. WALKER desired to amend the amendment. He said if the road was made in one location it would be two thousand miles over the country; if the other, it would be a fair course to be pursued by the House to bring in incongruous matters, that would have to be acted on by that body without debate, and thus jeopard the safety of the bill; and, besides, would bring all matters of legislation under appropriation bills.

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and others participated; when the Chair was called on to decide.

Mr. LADGER (in the chair) decided the amendment of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. CHASE) to be in order; when an appeal was taken, and the CHAIR was sustained by the following vote: Yeas 40, nays 5.

The CHAIR ruled the amendment (giving his reasons therefor) of Mr. WALKER not materially modified his amendment, and offered it to the Senate; when

The CHAIR decided that it was in order.

Mr. CHASE took an opposite view, and contended that if the first decision was correct the other was manifestly wrong, and gave his reasons for the conclusion he had arrived at.

The question was argued at some length, and the Chair was again sustained, as follows: Yeas 25, nays 10.

Mr. ADAMS then addressed the Senate at length, contending that the amendment contained all the principles of the homestead bill, and denounced that measure as improper and irreconcilable with the Constitution.

Mr. CHARLTON followed, and was very severe on the homestead bill, and ridiculed the idea of its title, which was to encourage agriculture, &c.

Mr. STANTON, of Ohio, in his defense, declaring its principles to be in harmony with republican institutions.

Messrs. BUTLER and RUSK also submitted some remarks; after which the further consideration was postponed until to-morrow, and the amendments ordered to be printed.

POST OFFICE CONTRACT.
At this late hour the CHAIR laid before the Senate a communication from the Post Office Department, made in compliance with a resolution calling for copies of propositions made or contracts entered into for the transportation of the mail from New York, New Orleans, and Vera Cruz, to San Francisco, which, on motion of Mr. RUSK, was referred to the Committee on Post Offices and Post Roads, and ordered to be printed.

[From this it appears that a contract has been entered into with A. K. Rainey and E. H. Carnick, of New York, for the transportation of the mail from New York, New Orleans, and Vera Cruz, to San Francisco, for the sum of \$100,000 per annum, and back in thirteen days each way, being an extension of two of the trips on the New Orleans and Vera Cruz line through Mexico, making one through line in sixteen days between New Orleans and San Francisco. This contract is subject to be annulled, and is now in New York waiting the signature of the parties.]

OCEAN STEAMERS.
On motion by Mr. HUNTER, the bill from the House of Representatives making appropriation for the transportation of the United States mail by ocean steamers and otherwise during the fiscal year ending the 30th June, 1854, was taken up.

And the Senate adjourned.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.
On motion of Mr. CABELL, of Florida, by consent, the House proceeded to consider the bill for the relief of Mrs. Mary W. Thompson and Mrs. V. Lomax, returned from the Senate with an amendment, inserting the name of Mrs. A. D. Dale.

The amendment was concurred in.

RECIPROCAL TRADE.
The House then resumed the consideration of the bill establishing reciprocal trade with the British North American colonies upon certain conditions, heretofore reported from the Committee on Commerce.

Mr. LETCHER, of Maine, in support of the bill, contending that the lumber interest was amply provided for by it.

Mr. LETCHER explained the object of the bill, and asked its immediate consideration; which was agreed to, and the bill was considered and passed.

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Mr. CHASE moved to amend the bill by inserting the following, which he did by direction of the Committee on Rivers and Canals:

Sec. 2. And be it further enacted, That the Secretary of War be and he is hereby authorized, under the direction of the President of the United States, to employ such portion of the Corps of Topographical Engineers, and such other persons as he may deem necessary, to make explorations and surveys as may be deemed advisable to ascertain the most practicable and economical route for a railroad from the Mississippi river to the Pacific ocean; and that the sum of \$100,000, or so much thereof as may be necessary, be and it is hereby appropriated to defray the expense of such explorations and surveys.

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